

From my [op-ed on BART](#) in today's Mercury News:

At a time when the national economy is showing weakness, isn't it common sense to support major investments in our region that will generate thousands of jobs and spark additional business expansion?

At a time when oil prices are skyrocketing, isn't it common sense to reduce our dependence on foreign oil?

At a time when global climate change threatens our future, isn't it common sense to encourage forms of rapid transit that dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

At a time when local government budgets are facing shortfalls, isn't it common sense to support projects that bring hundreds of millions of state and federal dollars — and thousands of jobs — to build transportation improvements in our county?